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California GARDEN

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Miss Sessions helped Mrs. Evans develop this delightful spot.

MAY
1940

Kate Olivia Sessions
Alfred D. Robinson

Plant Collectors
C. I. Jerebek

White Flowers
Esther Clare Johnson

The Mocking Bird
Frank E. Gander

Gleanings
Ida Louise Bryant

Problems of the Soil
Rob't R. McLean

Spring Garden
Walter Birch, Jr.

The Flower Show
Ada Perry

At Sunset
Ida E. McLean

K. O. S.

CALIFORNIA GARDEN

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KATE OLIVIA SESSIONS . . . .

. . . An Appreciation, Not an Obituary

By ALFRED D. ROBINSON

K. O. S. in the great fullness of her years, has passed on, leaving us the picture of what she was and what she did, as an inspiration to carry on. This picture has many facets and to each of us one of these may out-shine the rest and bring up some memory of personal contact. Judging by the notices in the press, many will see her as the planter of the Plaza Palms, a pioneer developer of Balboa Park, or the introducer of new things for our gardens, but the mere recording of these activities gives a very inadequate picture of the extraordinary combination of energy and enthusiasm we knew as Kate O. Sessions.

I hope I may be forgiven for saying that I think K. O. S. was wasted as a nursery woman, she should have been kept in the educative class. Those who attended the Floral Association meetings know of her unrivalled power to convey knowledge and arouse enthusiasm. As she handled, none too tenderly, the specimens on exhibition, one could sense the urge to plant stirring in her audience. She did a great educative work, but it might have been much greater if this side of her nature had been better appreciated. A garden, made or natural, became a museum with her entrance. This possibly lessened her efficiency as a landscaper for she was always more interested in specimens than in arrangement. She seemed to know every out-standing specimen wherever so-ever growing, and those she had planted received no more favorable mention than the rest.

K. O. S. was not a patient person. She had too much to do to waste time that way. If her helpers' technique did not suit her she would snatch trowel or spade and demonstrate as well as criticising volubly. Those who were apt to take issue with her abruptness and almost brutal frankness, failed to understand the tremendous energy behind it; she was always going full steam ahead.

Forty years ago, K. O. S. was over on Point Loma watching real-estate developers starting the work of scarring the rounded breasts of the hills, grading and terracing, and she said, "That's no way to go up hills! They should follow the contours like cattle," and she pointed to the trails the grazing cows had made. How true, in the light of today.

K. O. S. was no respecter of persons; rank or title were mere labels. Returning from her trip to Europe, during which she visited with William Robinson, England's greatest gardener, she was asked what her reaction to him was and she bluntly stated, "I thought him a pathetic old man. He was in his nineties and unable to walk." This gives an indication of what K.O.S. was spared by her blessed release on Easter Eve.

If one were to try and plant a garden just for K. O. S.'s self, it might appear at first sight to be comparatively easy, but an effort to do this in any detail would prove almost impossible, because of her enthusiasms. Her garden would be forever changing, rejections of the old loves to make room for the new but there are some things that would have to be there. Her yellow tree, the silver tree and the evergreen pear, several acacias, at least two of the genus ceanothus—cyaneus and arborea, Jasminum primulinum and Passiflora princeps and of course mesembryanthemums, echiums and heathers. Roses never seemed to exite her, but a climber might be there if space were not wanted for something else, and it is to be hoped there will never be a Kate O. Sessions rose.

Let no one take this as a complete picture of the woman. That no one can give. It is meant to be a tribute to the most interesting plant l o v e r and woman in the writer's gardening experience.

—Point Loma.

RESOLUTION

Whereas:

Since our last meeting Miss Kate O. Sessions has departed from us in death, to the great adventure of all life;

Whereas:—

Kate O. Sessions had those inherent qualities, that love and knowledge of all plants in nature, that no matter what else life means, it surely meant, living close to flowers, shrubs, and trees, to her.

Whereas:—

Kate O. Sessions was an honored member of our group, the San Diego Floral Association, and an outstanding horticulturist in the state of California,

Therefore Be It Resolved:—

That these expressions of remembrance be given to her relatives and friends. When we work and build things of the mind or the spirit with a fellow worker, our heartstrings somehow, like roots of plants growing together in fallow ground, become entwined with theirs, and to abruptly tear them apart gives pain.

Like a candle burning in a window, her life is vivid in our memory. We feel again as if but yesterday we heard her speak at our meetings, and in many of us her life yet has a vibrant influence, because of the many accomplishments to her credit, as an intelligent and civic minded citizen of the City of San Diego.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS,
San Diego Floral Association
April 15, 1940

Mr. Roland S. Hoyt, Editor
California Garden,
San Diego, Calif.

My dear Mr. Hoyt:

I have recently read with keen regret of the death of the renowned and beloved Miss Kate O. Sessions.

Although I can hardly count myself as a friend, I am definitely one of her many admirers, and I recall with keen pleasure and appreciation the privilege of having met her and visited several San Diego gardens in her company two years ago.

Deploring the loss of such a valuable leader and educator in the field of horticulture and garden development, may I express to your organization with which she was so closely connected, my sympathy for the loss of so valued a worker—a loss in which horticulture all over the country shares.

Sincerely yours,
E. L. D. SEYMOUR,
Horticultural Editor,
American Home.

AT SUNSET

If I but had a magic pen,
Dipped in rainbow hues of light;
Perhaps, in words, I'd picture, then,
Sunset glories yesternight.

But mine's the ordinary kind,
So inadequate, ah me!
And fitting phrases, ne'er I find—
To depict what eyes can see.

Fresh, rain-washed sward of em'rald sheen,
Covered valley, field and hill;
And questions stole o'er the scene
Daytime noise and sounds grew still.

The sun crept o'er the western range;
Soon to disappear from sight—
By some strange alchemy to change
All things seen, with magic light.

Majestic mountains towering high,
Their snow-capped peaks alight,
Glowed opalescent 'gainst a sky—
All suffused with rosy light.

As if more perfectly to light
That enchanting scene below—
A full - orbed moon in splendor bright,
In the roseate sky hung low.

Northeastward, far as eye could see
Stretched a panorama there—
So breath-taking in sheer beauty....
'Twas a sight beyond compare!

—Ida E. McLean.

From "Over the Garden Gate" to Miss Kate Sessions, Friday, March 29, 1940: The little plant mother went away to stay this week. . . . She left her children for us in every garden, including poinsettias . . . God needed a gardener, I guess . . . And he thought he'd let us have her for quite a while. . . . Well, the angels had better keep leaf mold around the heavenly heathers, I can tell you. . . . And, —but what's the use? . . . There's really not much help for the way we miss San Diego's Kate Sessions. . . . And will continue to miss her. . . . Anyway I can practically hear her giving me a going over for talking about her when people ought to know about their dahlias. . . . You know how she was. . . . —Ada Perry.

PLANT COLLECTORS

By C. I. Jerabek

Innumerable times in my nature walks and writings of Balboa Park, I have come upon plants which Miss Sessions personally had planted or had sold to the park department.

In the walk-talk of January 18th with the A. A. U. W., we noted several times the palm **Erythea brandegeei.** This tree has a more slender trunk than the other species, with the leaves more delicate in formation and resulting texture, a lighter green in color with an even paler shade beneath and cut to the middle or beyond into segments.

As a matter of history and as a story of more than casual interest to the gardener is the finding of this tree. By pre-arrangement in October 1910, Miss Sessions met Mr. Brandegee, plant collector, at Cape San Lucas located at the extreme end of the peninsula of Lower California. After securing burros and other needed equipment, they journeyed to the table lands of the Sierra de la Victoria mountains, this region being the natural habitat of the species of palm described.

After exploring their surroundings, Mr. Brandegee dug small plants of what appeared to be a new palm while Miss Sessions collected seed. A successful trip back to San Diego brought the loot to civilization and to horticulture. Upon their arrival, Mr. Brandegee hastened to Santa Barbara where he disposed of his plants to a Mr. Gillespie for the sum of five hundred dollars, the price offered for finding a new species of palm.

Miss Sessions planted the seed

collected and at the time of the 1915 Exposition, the young trees were sold to the park department and were set out in a barranca northeast of what is now the bowling green. In re-landscaping the park for the 1935-36 Exposition, many of these palms were transplanted to other parts of the park, so that now they are fairly well scattered.

Miss Sessions has done more toward the beautification of San Diego and environs than any other one person. In 1939 she was the recipient of the Meyer Medal which is the highest award in the United States for a plant collector. This was a double honor as she is the first woman to receive this recognition.

Now that Miss Sessions has passed on, her familiar face will be missed at our flower shows and association meetings. Her beautiful garden on Soledad Terrace contained a large and choice collection of plants. Many articles describing them were contributed to the **California Garden,** the readers always finding them of interest. With the death of this eminent horticulturist, the world loses one of its brightest women. Her very name recalls pleasant memories.

Marston Garden Open

The annual garden party at the Marston garden for the benefit of Neighborhood House will be held on Saturday afternoon, May 25th.

Coming earlier this year, the garden will be at the height of its bloom, so it should have special interest for members of the Floral Association and their friends.

There will be talks on flower arrangement in the loggia, just off the formal garden. Miss Alice Greer will give one of these demonstrations, illustrating her discussion with one of her superb compositions.

A new feature of the day will be walking tours about the beautifully landscaped grounds, led by Mrs. John Clark, who will point out favorite vistas and choice specimens, with names and history.

(Continued on Page 8)

Bird Parade—The Mocker . .

By FRANK F. GANDER

Master mimic, sublime singer, dancer, and guardian of the garden, the mockingbird is well fitted to lead the bird parade. Famous in song and story, this bird needs no introduction to most of us, but because of its plain gray dress, relieved only by darker gray and white in the wings and tail, some few have not yet learned to recognize it. Only the shrike or butcher bird approaches the mocker in color, and the black mask and heavy beak of this bird set it apart at once.

Those who do not recognize the mockingbird by sight must at least know its song for, loud and clear, it can be heard throughout our city most of the year. Individual birds have different characteristics—some devote themselves to mimicry, others make rapturous melody their goal. Not only may some song be heard at almost any season, but also at almost any time of day or night. But it is on moonlight nights in spring that the art of the mockingbird is at its peak. Feeling that the night was made for love, the ecstatic bird floods the neighborhood with its paeon of emotion.

The value of the mockingbird is not entirely esthetic, however. My own particular bird has endeared himself to me because he is such a splendid watch-dog. He has appointed himself special custodian of a large toyon or Christmas berry which from Thanksgiving until mid-February flaunts it ruddy fruit in my yard. Of course the mocker eats a few berries, he is very fond of them, but what he takes can not be noticed. Let a flock of linnets, or bluebirds, or cedar waxwings, or other berry-eaters alight in the bush, however, and scarcely have they settled upon the branches before the mocker is among them, making the feathers fly as he routs them out and drives them from the yard.

In helping to control insect pests, the mockingbird is of value, too, especially when there are baby birds in the nest. Cut-worms and other caterpillars, leaf beetles, rose weevils, moths, and grasshoppers are some of the insects which these birds have been known to eat. How often in summer may we see a mockingbird tripping over a lawn, stopping now and then to peer closely into the grass as he spreads his contrastingly marked wings. This spreading of the wings seems to me to be a devise for frightening insects from hiding as I have often seen a mockingbird interrupt the display to dart after some little creature whose startled movement had disclosed its presence. Sometimes a grasshopper will take to the air in an attempt to escape a mocker. Then begins a lively and exciting chase, the insect darting this way and that, and the bird following with many twists and turns as he attempts to effect the capture. Usually the mocker is successful, and as he gobbles up the insect, we marvel with Sidney Lanier,

"How can the death of that dull insect be
The life of yon trim Shakespeare on the tree?"

Wild Flowers and Fire

Here and there on the coastal hills of Southern California and from time to time appear bloomings of a little blue phacelia, probably a form of **P. grandiflora.** This plant makes a burst of blooming after fire in the way of most native annuals, but in the observation and memory of a San Diego County rancher, it would appear that the seed of this species will remain viable for twenty-five years or more in the soil awaiting fire. In that period of time it apparently laid in unfired ground with none or only occasional plants germinating.

After a brush fire, however, the ground was blue with the flowering and there it flourished for several years to cease again as the ashes leached out. —Dewey Kelly

COMPLICATIONS and COMMENT

Call this chitter, but not tattle—call it it gossip, call it prattle—
But whate'er may be its name, call it fun—
This garden game!

CORIANDER

In talking with a Chinese friend one day about the difference in the type of seasonings used in her kind of cooking and mine, I found that our common parsley is not highly regarded by the Chinese. She told me that the kind they use, especially with fish, is so fragrant and flavorful that when minced it can be smelled through the whole house. She brought me some seeds of it, not being able to find any plants at the time, and I found it to be our old friend "coriander." The plants proved to be a feathery, delicate variety (they belong to the parsley family) with a lavender flower in flat umbels; I tried to use bits of sprigs as seasoning, but my long-suffering family rebelled, and to tell the truth, I didn't like it either. There is a rather sickishly sweet flavor about it that one would have to grow accustomed to, and that is fully explained by the meaning of the Greek origin of the name.

Coriander as used in candy will be remembered by the older generation; I haven't run across it for a long time. There used to be a seed in the center of those round, hard "bulls-eyes" of adamantine hardness, with layers of lurid color (shades of the Pure Food Act!); and the tiny windmills and lanterns of gilt and celluloid that decorated the Christmas trees of my childhood, along with the candy chains, and the twin cherries on wire, were filled with crinkly candies, flavorless until one reached the papery husk of the seed in the center. —A. G. L.

LONG BEACH OBSERVES

I am going to draw to your attention a very novel piece of landscape maintenance that I saw in San Diego, and that is the way the plants are cared for about the Civic Center, at least on the side where the buses pass; they should pass faster. Actually, I never saw so many plants on crutches in my life. Is that the way to grow them in San Diego? Is it that the climate gets them down and they have to use a stake to prop them up? My, what a debilitating atmosphere that must be about the Civic Center.

You know, as one takes a quick glance at the stakes, it almost brings to mind an immense alphabetic project just before or just after the whistle blows. In any event you know the attitude of repose and what confidence is put into the shovel handle.

All kidding aside though, how do you expect a plant to gain strength enough to hold itself up after it has been leaning on a crutch all the time? Plants are living things and they are either lazy or strong, according to the way they are trained, and they can be over trained or under trained like humans.

—G. J. C.
Long Beach

BERMUDA AGAIN

You ask for a "devil grass" remedy. Dig it out every time any shows above ground.

The horticulturist at the Florida Experiment Station said the best way to get a stand of it was to dig the grass and dry it; burn it and sift the ashes and sow them. You will get a perfect stand of grass!

J. H. Wells,
El Cajon.

CIVIC GARDENING

Did you ever stop to think what could be accomplished in a city like ours if all the organizations combined for one year with an objective of, let us say, A City Beautiful? All our petty differences forgotten, all our selfish interests submerged, for a beautiful city—beautiful in a material and a spiritual way as well. It sounds Utopian, admitted; but all over the country there are towns that are doing it. Remember Santa Barbara? It needs some interested group to provide the leadership and the dynamite; wouldn't a going concern, in the shape of a floral association make an awfully good spot to take off from?

Are we doing the right thing for our people here in San Diego—the greatest good for the greatest number — in spending so much money on a 1400 acre park that a great many of our children and probably thousands of our citizens don't go into five times a year? I don't begrudge it to the Park, as such; it is a standing joke in my family that I am so enamored of its beauty that wherever we drive, in whatever direction, I insist: Let's go by way of the Park.

But when I see how that little spot of grass in front of the Public Library is rolled on, and sat on, and slept on, and how the girls from the beauty shops and the boys from the ten cent stores lingeringly eat their lunches on it, I could wish that some of those beautiful sweeping lawns on upper Sixth Avenue could have been sandwiched in, here and there, in the city part of our town.—L. O. B.

RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN

A most interesting garden project and one which is not yet particularly well known is this collection of the native plants of California. It was established in 1927 by Mrs. Susanna Bixby Bryant as a memorial to her father, John W. Bixby, a pioneer.

This garden consists of some two hundred acres located in Santa Ana Canyon and is a part of the old Yorba Rancho, one of the early Spanish land grants and owned by the Bixby family since 1875. The aim is to collect and propagate the native plants of California. With the varied exposures, elevations and soil types, it will be possible to naturalize most of the native plants of the state.

A phenomenal success has been made in the planting and growth of these plants. Thousands of plants have been raised in the nursery from seed collected in all parts of the state. Over half the species of

trees and shrubs of California have been planted and many of the perennials and annuals.

Visitors are admitted by card only on Fridays during April, May and June. Cards may be obtained by writing to the Santa Ana Botanic Garden, R.F.D., Box 327, Anaheim, California. Enclose a self-addressed envelope, stamped, and state the number of cars and people in each party. Only a limited number of cards are issued for each day.

Each week there is a cut flower showing of the wild flowers in bloom and a lecture in the new assembly hall. Some weeks there are as many as two hundred different flowers on display.

A new feature, initiated last year for the first time, one especially choice flower of easy cultivation will be displayed and a leaflet distributed with pertinent information concerning it and notes on cultivation.

NEW GARDENING BOOKS ADDED TO THE SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Cautley, Marjorie Sewell—Garden design: the principles of abstract design as applied to landscape composition.

Written for the amateur gardener and is particularly valuable because it explains a scientific color theory in terms of traditional color names, selected from flower catalogues. Contains an excellent bibliography.

Ortloff, H. Stuart & Raymore, Henry B.—Garden planning and building.

To help people develop their home landscapes satisfactorily for beauty of landscape design, not assuming as so many books do that the reader is well versed in design, composition and pictorial arrangement.

Rowntree, Lester—Flowering shrubs of California and their value to the gardener.

A first reader on cultivation in the home garden of California's lovely native flowering shrubs such as wild lilac, manzanitas and ceanothus.

—Margaret Follick.

Gleanings From the Magazines

By Ida Louise Bryant

GARDENERS' CHRONICLE OF AMERICA for April, the official organ of the National Association of Gardeners and the American Rock Garden Society, cheers on the gardener: . . . "soon he can put his hand down into the rich earth. Heavy winds, bitter cold, and unprecedented ice storms may have played havoc with his plants — much work lies ahead of the gardener. But Spring is here, all's right with his world." At least, the "bitter cold" has, presumably, frozen up the pests—those creeping and flying things that seem to lie in ambush the year round, here; does anyone remember such a host of greedy, uninvited guests in our back east gardens? Set out a group of sturdy little seedlings from your flats, leave them alone for a week, except for watering them, and see what has happened to them! A plant of Taraxacum officinale, in full bloom, will be sent to the first three readers who guess and spell correctly the names of the six pests that did the most damage. Yet, the reason for this peevish outburst. . . I did, and they did.

The same magazine has a helpful article for the fortunate owner of a crannied wall, giving a complete list and description of suitable plants; it stresses out-of-the-ordinary rock garden plants, and refutes the statement of Mr. Euan Cox, the eminent English garden authority, who said after a tour of American gardens that they all had the same plants. The same issue has a good list of annuals, always standbys for beginning gardeners, and by the same author, a monthly department: "April is the month to—." These month by month reminders, found in many garden magazines, (what has become of OURS?) are of great help to us amateurs.

SUBTROPICAL GARDENING, published in Florida, while of chief interest to southeastern gardeners, has in its March issue a description of walled gardens in old St. Augustine that makes one long for a peek at them; and a Flower Show Chairman's detailed recipe for making, of all things, thimble bouquets.

This magazine, as the name would imply, is designed to serve climates such as ours and comes from Orlando. It is new to this reviewer and apparently is covering much material that will be helpful to gardeners in this area. Further acquaintance is awaited with anticipation.

TREES for April tells of its new project; it is making a comprehensive survey of street trees for the whole country, results of which park superintendents and highway commissions should reach for with eagerness. At this quarterly's masthead is the quotation: "No place is complete without trees. A home without trees is charmless; a road without trees is shadeless; a park without trees is purposeless; **a country without trees is hopeless."**

SUNSET'S April copy is calculated to make a gardener seize his trowel and dash into the garden in a frenzy of eagerness to achieve some of the results pictured on the patio pages (providing the same gardener wasn't engrossed with the mouth-watering pages of recipes in the hostess department, also pictured.)

THE AMERICAN HOME for May carries a description of how to transform a corner lot into a garden. But the writer had a head start on many an aspiring gardener who has produced loveliness from bareness, as this casual sentence shows: "The existing shade trees, two majestic live oaks and a sweet scented magnolia, were in the rear yard."

An article that the mother of small daughters should find most stimulating is called "Teach Them to Arrange Flowers." With the new generation learning the principles of correct bouquet arrangement we won't see handfuls of wildly assorted flowers crammed into inappropriate containers quite so often as we do now—or will we?

The story of the old-fashioned posies at Time-Stone Farm gives a

picture of peace and quite beauty, of the tranquility that a garden should have. In our efforts to have our gardens tailored to perfection, do we sometimes lose sight of the old time idea of a garden as a resting place, a spot for reflection and relaxation? The author speaks of a whole "tussie-mussie" of plants grown for scent—us for a tussie-mussie!

MARCH MEETING

At the March meeting of the San Diego Floral association, Mr. Arthur M. Shoven, member of the board of directors, presided in the absence of the president, Mrs. Mary A. Greer. He called attention to the dates of the Annual Spring Flower Show to be held April 27th and 28th, and also urged all members to actively assist in securing new memberships to the association.

Mr. Herman Lodge, a dahlia grower of Rockleigh Dahlia Gardens of La Mesa, California was introduced. In the introductory remarks, Mr. Shoven mentioned that during the month of September, 1939, Mr. Lodge had the honor of assisting as one of the judges at the Mid-West Dahlia Show at Cleveland, and at the American Dahlia Show in New York City.

With colored slides, Mr. Lodge showed a great number of the beautiful dahlia blooms exhibited at the two shows. There were others of private gardens, and in the Bronx Gardens, and one acreage contained new dahlias, only, with no names. Views of the New York fair, scenes of rural regions through Connecticut, Maine, New Jersey, Ohio, and of more gardens of Florida were shown.

Mr. C. I. Jerabek gave a brief report on the number of exhibits and exhibitors of the floriculture section of the San Francisco fair, there being 282 exhibitors of whom Mrs. John Bakkers and Mr. Jerabek from San Diego were included. In a very interesting way he described many botanical specimens brought by members.

At the close of the meeting, seedling geraniums and poinsettia cuttings were distributed to all in attendance. —G. M. G.

Problems of the Soil . . . .

By R. R. McLEAN, County Agricultural Commissioner

FERTILIZING ROSES

Question: I get quite a bit of helpful advice by following your questions and answers in the California Garden. Would you tell me what is the best fertilizer to use for my roses when they are already mulched plenty?—Mrs. C. K. S.

Answer: Your question indicates that manure has been used liberally as a mulch. If this is the case a good handful of blood and bone to each thrifty plant would provide additional plant food and be a good complement to the manure. In case your mulch is not manure, the use of liquid manure would be highly desirable. Liquid manure can be prepared by soaking one grain sack of manure, either poultry or dairy, to about a barrel of water for a period of twenty-four to forty-eight hours. One to two gallons, according to the size of the plants, once every two weeks while the plants are in active growth generally brings remarkable results.

A commercial fertilizer composed of 5% nitrogen, 8% phosphorous and 3% potash, or the formula known commercially as a 5-8-3 mixture, is considered generally satisfactory for roses. A good handful per plant, if the plants are of average size, applied once a month during the spring and summer will provide a satisfactory fertilization program for roses, provided, of course, that a mulch is used which when worked into the soil each winter and then renewed in the spring will provide the necessary humus.

EVERGREEN ELMS

Question: I would like to know something about the evergreen elm. In the first place, is it really evergreen? What is its name and where can one get plants?

Answer: The true evergreen elm is just that when and if planted in sections not too cold. An elm of this species may be entirely evergreen here in San Diego, but planted in other portions of the south where colder winter weather prevails, may be deciduous for a month or six weeks. In ordinary years these elms are evergreen in San Diego, but the writer has seen them here with little or no foliage during a short period in cold winters. One species of this elm is known as Ulmus sempervirens. Another sometimes called the Chinese Elm is Ulmus parvifolia or Ulmus chinensis. This may or may not be synonymous with U. sempervirens. At any rate the evergreen elm by whatever name it goes is one of the most beautiful trees in cultivation. It should be more widely planted in San Diego than it has heretofore been. Most of the specimens growing here were planted by the late Miss K. O. Sessions late of Pacific Beach.

MOSS IN LAWN

Question: At one side of my lawn there is a place where moss grows in it. Will the use of lime prevent the moss from growing, or what other remedy is there?—E. W.

Answer: Lawn experts state that moss does not necessarily indicate an acid soil, but that its presence usually means that the lawn needs fertilizer. If this is the case in your lawn, lime would do it little good. Clover is a good indicator of soil acidity, as it does not readily grow in soils too acid. Some authorities recommend the use of potash on lawns where moss makes its appearance, say about 1 pound to 150 square feet.

Moss occasionally develops, also, in heavy, wet soils in need of drainage. Improving the drainage and giving the lawn adequate fertilization should improve the condition you refer to.

GOING WHITE

It is pleasant to know that one need not wait for January first to make a new resolution. New Year's Day is a good time for that mental exercise, just as Saturday night was

long considered the best time for a bath. And we are happy to know there are no restrictions on us in either respect.

My resolution for this particular season is that I will positively do my best to make it possible for my patrons to find white flowering plants for their gardens, particularly during the summer months.

The demand for white in the garden is not great, but it is growing. It will grow faster if we who have the duty and privilege of supplying these materials to the public will try always to have some of those things to offer.

One reason why the stands are so poorly supplied with white flowering plants is that they are notoriously poor sellers, and the daring one who stocks them with hope, usually throws them out in despair and takes his loss with what cheerfulness he may summon.

But the undeniable fact is that all of us have occasional demands for white that we can not supply, and the unhappy seeker goes from one to the other in what is too often a vain quest. They are disappointed, and probably disgusted, and the nurserymen are a little troubled, as well as something out of pocket.

We who now know the value of white in the garden must make it our responsibility to encourage its use and do our part by having something to show the occasional buyer for it. It won't be long before a flat of white on the display bench will be an asset instead of a liability.

Some of the good things to be had in white are verbena, stock, snapdragon, petunia, gazania, larkspur and delphinium. There are others, of course. During the summer months nothing adds to the beauty and enjoyability of the garden so much as the white flowering annuals and perennials. They are particularly delightful in the evening, when a garden of color is a complete black-out. The white note holds the garden together in the day time, and in the evening helps it to retain its identity as a beauty spot.

—Esther Clare Johnson

Flower Show Review . . .

By ADA PERRY

I think I've explained that these Perry woman reviews never attempt to give credit where credit is due . . . My theory is that every one who has anything whatever to do with the glorious flower show picture deserves credit . . . That would add up to a considerable group of very nice people . . . So it's grand going everybody and that doesn't leave anybody out . . .

You must have stopped to breathe in that great sob of spring beautifulness before you started wafting on clouds hither and thither . . . And you knew perfectly well you'd said last year's was the best show, yet . . . But that little change of arrangements did make an airy difference in this year's show . . . The garden flowers had more room, and the lovely white and other arrangements and boxes had better light, while the tables in their hall alcove really seemed devoted to dining . . . The fresh, smug look on all the flowers' faces tickled me . . . They were thanking heaven for the pure, generous rain and no credit to us for that . . .

Don't know why the sweet peas and iris were caught on the wrong foot but that's probably their business . . . Maybe they were letting giant pansies, the liberty-bell hybrid amaryllis, salipiglossis, hybrid California poppies, and branches of fringe, lily of the valley, and coral trees have the spotlight this time . . . And did you see that mauve-chiffon stalk of delphinium? . . . Guess that made you vow to kneel beside your flower beds more often . . .

And the roses! . . . The roses! . . . Tables and tables, each specimen a queen above the snowy cloths . . . They were showing off for the visiting president and members of the American Rose Society, of course . . . And didn't they do us proud! . . . Was glad to see sir Julian Potin carrying off best-rose-in-show honors in his yellow velvet robe . . . All credit to local Rosarians who brought their best to the show and so could not linger lovingly over the vases at the Rose Society dinner lately . . . They couldn't have anyway—they kept their speakers too busy—but they showed the right spirit . . .

Want to express appreciation right now to the local nurseries and other flower firms who hauled in truck-loads of flowers and rocks and moss and equipment to build the delightful dells we poked into around the show room walls . . . Balboa park and the Naval Training station, too . . . What would we do without those nooks of choice plants . . . And by nooks, I don't mean small, either . . .

By the way, weren't the dish gardens perfect this time? . . . Dishes and gardens . . . Yes, I'll wager you raved about the marvelous bottle jar and those hundred named cactus in the beautiful little garden on a large tray . . .

Mind some breathless mumbles about the tables?—teardrop glass and belaperonne, sandwish glass and fuchsias, bluebirds (on the dishes or somewhere) and bachelor buttons, lilacs and limoges, lilacs and pink damask and "dose" pink roses . . . Oh, and pottery and cactus with echeverias for centerpiece "waterlilies" . . . Yes, and the maypole table spread with spring bouquets . . . Oh dear, I've left out some of the tables . . . But I warned about that leaving out business . . . Well to the shadow boxes and that person with the naughty twinkle who made a perfect composition using not one flower, only some grubby palm leaves of something . . . A grass shack scene in that place in Hawaii no doubt . . . Liked the ivory fan one and the white head in a curve with a magnolia twig and a dot of mock orange pittosporum . . . Or am I being independent of the judges again . . . it's all right, they aren't bothered by me . . . We'd better thank the exhibitor of choice

(Continued on Page 9)

The Spring Garden . . .

By WALTER BIRCH, Jr.

May is about the best month for setting out Chrysanthemums and Dahlias. These are both late summer and fall flowers and do much better when they are not planted too early.

Seed of the following Flowers may be sown successfully in May: Ageratum, Amaranthus, Asters, Balsam, Carnation, Calendula, Celosia, Centaurea, Calliopsis, Cosmos, Double Daisy, Annual Chrysanthemum or Painted Daisy, Candytuft, Dianthus Pinks, Gypsophila, Hunnemannia, Lobelia, Larkspur, Marigold, (African and French) Petunia, Portulaca, Salvia (red and blue), Salpiglossis, Verbena and Zinnia. Plants of the foregoing, also Gerberas or Transvaal Daisy, Chrysanthemums and Dahlias.

Keep a sharp lookout for snails, slugs, etc. Any of the modern baits are quite effective, such as New Snarol, or Bug-geta. For mildew on Roses use some good copper spray such as Fung-Ex, Bordeaux Mixture, Fungusol or Nicona. A great many people prefer to dust with sulphur which is quite effective if the sun is fairly warm. Don't use both sulphur and an oil spray.

There are a great many different brands of ant controls, but we find the old standby the cheapest and in the majority of cases the most effective — that is London Purple. It works on all kinds of ants either in the yard or in the house, although it looks quite mussy inside, you only have to leave it out for a couple of days. Then there are the various brands of poisoned syrups all of which work quite well, the main difference being in the containers in which they are distributed around the yard. Antrol and Ant-B-Gone are two of the very generally used brands.

Gladiolus thrips — use Barfoot Rotenone and Barfoot Spreader about every ten days. This spray will absolutely control the thrips if used often enough and the spraying is thoroughly done.

In spraying all plants and trees either for insects, scale, or blight and mildew, the main factor in getting results is thorough application of the spray material used, the plant must be thoroughly saturated with the solution. Most Spray materials will do the work for which they are recommended if mixed according to directions and thoroughly applied. This thoroughness of application is much more easily accomplished by using either a compressed air sprayer or one that is used on the garden hose. The reduction in the amount of time required to attend to your spraying will soon pay for the better spraying equipment.

Give all your plants and Lawn frequent applications of a good plant food such as Vigoro or other standard brand. A lawn should be fertilized lightly every three or four months. A well fed lawn requires much less water to keep it nice and green. Generally speaking, frequent light application of plant food will maintain a good even growth much better than heavy applications put on with long intervals between.

Vegetables for May include Carrots, Turnips, Beets, Radish, Spinach, Beans, Sweet Corn, Mustard, Canteloupes, Water Melon, Squash and Cucumbers.

Marston Garden Open

(Continued from Page 3)

Mr. and Mrs. John Wimmer head the committee on cut flowers and potted plants. An urgent appeal is made to all Floral Society members to contribute as much as possible to this section, that there may be a fine stock to swell the profits.

S. D. Floral Association meeting held third Tuesday of each month at Floral Bldg., Balboa Park, 7:30 p. m.

Dahlias Now

Dahlias will grow in almost any kind of soil if properly planted and cultivated; good drainage is an absolute necessity.

Select an open, sunny location, afternoon shade preferred, away from the reach of shrubs and trees. About February first spade the soil to a depth of 1 foot and work in some well decayed stable fertilizer. It is advisable to dig in also pulverized lime for the purpose of sweetening the soil. Ten days before planting time, spread mildly a preparation named vaporite, known to destroy insects so plentiful in our soil and so harmful in many respects. Then turn the soil over again and rake ground evenly.

When the 10 days are over you may begin planting your tubers. In California this may be done any time after April first, although according to experts May first should be preferred. After all, dahlias are considered fall flowers and will do much better when the air turns cooler. —M. C. P.

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Hawaii Garden Tour Date Changed

Leslie Layton announces a change in sailing date for the Pacific Coast Garden Tour to Hawaii. Sailing from Los Angeles will be May 16th—return June 7th. Many good wishes for a marvelous trip.

Flower Show Review

(Continued from Page 7)

carnations from afar . . . And that huge, tan-red iris you liked is Sir Michael . . . I can't talk much about Miss Sessions' memorial exhibit . . . This is the first flower show since— . . . But let's, oh let's have it every year . . .

—Ada Perry.

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